

To: Director and Laboratory Staff  
From: Survey and Appraisal  
Subject: SURVEY NOTES

## FARM SITUATION

### LOWER FARM INCOME EXPECTED IN 1949

Demand for most farm products is expected to continue fairly strong for the remainder of 1949, but at a lower level than in 1948. Prices received by farmers and total cash receipts from farming this year may average about 10 percent below the 1948 record.

The Demand and Price Situation, Mar. 1949, p.1

### INFLATIONARY PRESSURES EASE

Inflationary pressures in most segments of the Nation's economy have eased. Farm product prices have declined substantially from the record levels of 1948, while industrial commodities generally have made smaller but significant declines. A slight drop in the overall volume of industrial production and in the take-home pay of industrial workers also has occurred.

The Demand and Price Situation, Mar. 1949, p.1

## COTTON LINT

### COTTON CONSUMPTION UP IN MARCH

Cotton consumption was higher in March than in February, but it was still well below the same month one year ago. Stocks at the end of March were 8.2 million bales, as compared to 9.1 million bales in February 1949 and 5.6 million bales one year ago.

Table 1.- Cotton consumption and stocks, and spindle hours in cotton mills

	: March	: February	: January	: March
	: 1949	: 1949	: 1949	: 1948
Consumption, bales.....	720,892	640,182	674,463	878,714
On hand, 1,000 bales.....	8,175	9,118	9,840	5,625
Active spindle hours, billions:	8.9	8.4	8.4	11.0
Spindle activity, percent of	:	:	:	:
80-hour capacity 1/.....	106.8	112.3	112.0	133.6
	:	:	:	:

1/ Includes activity on fibers other than cotton, totaling 0.6 to 0.7 billion spindle hours for each month shown.

From Census reports.

### COTTON AND RAYON STAPLE PRICES STABLE; MILL MARGINS DROP AGAIN

Viscose and acetate staple prices remained stable from last month, while cotton advanced slightly. On April 14, viscose staple was still nearly two cents cheaper than cotton. Mill margins and cotton fabric prices (average 17 constructions) continued to decline.



Table 2.- Prices of raw cotton, rayon staple and cotton fabrics, and cotton mill margins in cents.

	:Apr. 21: : 1949 :	Mar. : 1949 :	Feb. : 1949 :	Mar. : 1948 :	Average : 1945 :
Cotton, Middling 15/16"	:	:	:	:	:
delivered at mills, lb.....	34.96	34.36 <sup>5/8</sup>	34.41	35.36	23.76
Rayon, viscose staple,	:	:	:	:	:
equivalent price 1/, lb.....	32.93	32.93	32.93	32.04	22.25
Rayon, acetate staple,	:	:	:	:	:
equivalent price 1/, lb.....	37.38	37.38	42.72	42.72	38.27
Cotton fabrics, average 17 constructions:	:	:	:	:	:
Price for cloth from 1 lb. of cotton <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	-	63.70	64.55	92.39	43.21
Mill margins <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	-	31.35	32.29	68.26	20.86
Sheeting, 37" 4.00, yd. <sup>4</sup> / <sub>5</sub> .....	16.00	16.50	16.50	21.25	11.10
Osnaburg, 36" 2.35, yd. <sup>4</sup> / <sub>5</sub> .....	21.25	21.25	21.25	23.50	14.89
Printcloth, 38-1/2" 5.35, yd. <sup>4</sup> / <sub>5</sub> .....	14.75	14.75	15.00	20.50	9.60

- 1/ Cost to mill of same amount of usable fiber as supplied by one pound of cotton (rayon price x.89).
- 2/ Price of approximate quantity of cloth obtainable from a pound of cotton with adjustments for saleable wastes (Cotton Branch, PMA).
- 3/ Difference between cloth prices and prices (10-market average) of cotton assumed to be used in each kind of cloth (Cotton Branch, PMA).
- 4/ From Daily Mill Stock Reporter and Daily News Record.
- 5/ Preliminary.

#### NEW LONG STAPLE VARIETY APPEARS BETTER THAN S X P

Resumption of acreage controls on ordinary cotton is expected to revive interest in production of extra staple varieties of the American-Egyptian type. Anticipating this situation, the U. S. Field Station, Sacaton, California, has developed a new long staple variety (Pima 32). Field tests for the last four years indicate that Pima 32 has a high yield—it averaged 456 pounds of lint per acre, 50 percent above the 301-pound average for S X P, the present commercial long staple variety. Laboratory tests show that the fiber of Pima 32 is 12 percent stronger than S X P, and preliminary spinning tests indicate a substantial improvement in yarn skein strength.

Cotton Trade Journal, April 8, 1949, p.9

#### AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN COTTON BETTER THAN LAST YEAR; GINNINGS 3,471 BALES

According to the Production and Marketing Administration, the 1948-49 American-Egyptian (S X P) crop contained a larger proportion of longer staple cotton than last year's growth. This season, only 10 percent of the total ginnings fell within the 1-3/8" and 1-15/32" categories, and 90 percent was 1-1/2" and longer, while a year earlier these staple groups accounted for about 17 percent and 83 percent of the crop, respectively. The Bureau of the Census reported American-Egyptian (S X P) ginnings totaling 3,471 bales for 1948-49, compared with 1,208 bales the previous season.

Cotton Quality Report for Ginnings of American-Egyptian 1948 Crop,  
P. M. A., Bakersfield, California, March 21, 1949



## NEW STRAIN ANNOUNCED

Officials of the University of Arkansas Experiment Station have announced the development of a new strain of cotton, Arkat 2-1, which they say matures two weeks earlier than other varieties and is well adapted to mechanical harvesting.

Progress Bulletin, April 8, 1949, p. 11

## NEW COTTON PICKER DEVELOPED

W. E. Ramsey of Stanton, Texas, has developed a new type of cotton picker using suction to remove cotton from bolls. He has been notified that it is patentable. By specially designed controls, the suction can be adjusted so that fully matured cotton will be picked while cracked, and green bolls are left on the stalks.

Cotton Trade Journal, March 25, 1949, p. 5

## COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND EQUIPMENT

### TOOLING UP NEARLY COMPLETE ON WARNER & SWAZEY LOOM

Warner & Swazey expects a large volume of textile business in 1949 if it can get its weaving machines in production before the end of the year. Tooling-up work has been substantially completed on this loom.

Wall Street Journal, March 22, 1949, p. 16

### GAS BURNING INFRA RED DRYER

Production increases of up to 200 percent on stenters, 100 percent on slashers, and 250 percent on singeing machines are claimed for a new gas burning infra-red generator developed by Process Heating Inc., of Brooklyn, New York. The generator is said to burn with flameless, practically 100 percent combustion. The burner, which is made of special cast-iron segments, generates infra-red rays and convected heat or hot air. It is said to have a high heat release, one foot of burner being capable of evaporating from 1/2 to 1 pound of water per minute without an enclosure.

Textile World, January 1949

### TEXTRON'S NEW \$4 MILLION HARTWELL PLANT OPENED

Textron Mills has opened its \$4 million plant at Hartwell, Georgia. The Hartwell plant, with 122,000 square feet of floor space, is the twelfth Textron plant to locate in South Carolina and Georgia.

Southern Textile News, April 2, 1949, p. 5

### BRITISH INVENT NEW SPINNING SYSTEM

An entirely new system of roving, spinning, and twisting machinery, which opens up far-reaching possibilities for the centrifugal spinning of all dry fiber yarns, has been invented by Prince-Smith and Stells, Ltd., of England. This system makes centrifugal spinning of dry fiber yarns possible for the first time. It involves machines for drawing or roving, spinning, and twisting, each of which may be used with other textile machinery of the normal type. To gain full advantage of the system, all three types of machines must be used together. In the process, the principle is the same. The machines will continue to run through mealtime breaks and overtime without attention. Other advantages include higher speeds, larger packages, fewer end breakages, far less labor, less floor space per pound of yarn, and higher quality yarns at lower cost. The "P. S. C." system



was designed primarily for the worsted spinning industry. Britain's Textile Machinery Makers group, with which the inventor firm is associated, will develop the system for processing spun rayon, cotton, and other natural fibers. Manufacture of the new machines requires a special plant now being built. It will be some time before the machines can be offered for general use in the textile industry.

Textile Age, March 1949, p. 96

#### PREVENTION OF DERMATITIS A RESPONSIBILITY OF CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS, SAYS SPECIALIST

Dr. Louis Schwartz, consulting dermatologist of Washington, stated that manufacturers of the continuous stream of new chemicals for application to textiles are duty-bound to make sure they do not cause dermatitis. He said that no chemical is absolutely "safe", the amount of toxicity depending upon the quantity used as well as its quality. Most complaints of toxicity have been traced to the variety of dyes and chemicals used to add desirable properties to the fabrics. Most anti-mildew agents can cause trouble if used in too close or too frequent contact with the skin. No difficulty has been reported from flame-resistant treatments, delustering agents or even moth or louse-proofing treatments, except for DDT compounds. Products used in water-resistant treatments, and even some sulphonated oils, have caused trouble. Urea formaldehyde resins, when subjected to sufficient heat for proper curing, have been found to cause dermatitis in some cases. Even compounds used in washing powders, some detergents and water treatments used in commercial laundries have brought complaints.

Daily News Record, March 17, 1949, p.21

#### C O T T O N   P R O D U C T S

##### BAGS: PRICES DECLINE; COTTON FLOUR BAGS MORE EXPENSIVE TO USE THAN BURLAP OR PAPER BAGS

All bag prices declined from March to April with cotton bags showing a drop of \$3.25 per thousand bags; burlap bags, \$11.35; and paper bags, \$5.30. Used bag quotations dropped also. On the basis of once-used bags, the net cost of using cotton bags is \$14.35 more than burlap and \$5.00 more than paper bags per thousand. Last month cotton bags were cheapest to use. (See footnotes 3 and 5 of table 3).

##### BAGS: COTTON, JUTE BAG MANUFACTURERS WARD OFF COMPETITION FROM PAPER INDUSTRY BY EMPHASIZING RE-USE VALUE

Cotton and jute manufacturers have stepped up the demand for their products by creating bags with a "re-use" value, so that today a revival of smaller size sugar and salt bags is indicated. Trade reports also indicate that attempts to replace cotton and jute in the feed bag market with multiwall paper sacks have been almost entirely without success. It is said that the size of the 50-pound sacks only creates additional handling cost for the feed manufacturers and dealers. The market for kraft papers is very strong, however, and all indications are that it will remain so, at least during the first half of the year.

Journal of Commerce, March 14, 1949, p. 1

##### TIRE FABRIC: MOST PRICES UNCHANGED

Open market prices for tire fabric remained unchanged from March to April, except for rayon truck tire fabric (2200/2), which advanced one cent per pound. (table 4).



Table 3.- Midmonth prices of 100-lb. flour bags

(Dollars per thousand)					
	April 1949	March 1949	February 1949	April 1948	September 1945
Prices, new, St. Louis 1/					
Cotton.....	233.75	237.00	237.00	277.75	173.50
Burlap.....	204.40	215.75	225.30	215.00	149.85
Paper.....	108.75	114.05	114.05	108.65	87.40
Prices, second-hand, New York 2/					
Cotton 3/.....	105.00	110.00	110.00	120.00	110.00
Burlap 3/.....	100.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	130.00
Paper.....	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	-
Difference 4/					
Cotton 5/.....	128.75	127.00	127.00	157.75	63.50
Burlap 5/.....	104.40	110.75	120.30	110.00	19.85
Paper.....	98.75	104.05	104.05	98.65	87.40

1/ Cotton, 37" 4.00 sheeting cut 43"; burlap, 36" 10 oz. cut 43"; paper, 18 x 4 1/2 x 36-3/4"; all l. c. l. shipments. From a large bag manufacturer.

2/ For bakery run bags as given in Daily Mill Stock Reporter.

3/ Prices for once-used bags are higher than quotations shown. Once-used bags sold on New York market as follows: Cotton bags, \$140 per thousand April 1948 to March 1949, \$130 per thousand April 1949; burlap, \$115 per thousand January-March 1949, and \$110 per thousand April 1949.

4/ New prices less second-hand prices.

5/ On basis of one-used bag quotations, net cost of using cotton bags was \$103.75 during April 1949; \$97.00, February and March 1949; and \$137.75, April 1948. Net cost of using burlap bags was \$89.40 during April 1949; \$100.75, March 1949; and \$115.30, February 1949.

Table 4.- Prices of cotton and rayon tire fabric, April 1 and March 1, 1949

Fabric	Cord	Fabric weight per sq.yd.	Price per pound		Price per sq. yd.	
			April 1	March 1	April 1	March 1
		Pounds	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Passenger car tires						
Cotton fabric.....	12/4/2	.86	72	72	62	62
Rayon fabric.....	1650/2	.67	66.5	66.5	45	45
Truck tires						
Cotton fabric.....	12/4/2	.86	1/	1/	1/	1/
Rayon fabric.....	1100/2	.54	69	69	37	37
Rayon fabric.....	2200/2	.81	66	65	53.5	53

1/ No quotations received.

Based on reports from independent rubber companies for fabric constructions most heavily used.

#### YARN: "SUPERSET" CLAIMED TO IMPART WRINKLE RESISTANCE

According to the Avondale Mills, their new cotton yarn treated with "Superset Resin," resists crushing, rumpling, wrinkling, dust, soot, and soiling, and can be dry-cleaned and washed. Dresses of treated fabric, hung up over night,



were fresh and wearable the following day, requiring pressing only after three or four days of wear, in contrast to untreated cotton dresses, which require daily pressing. A dress from the treated yarns was packed for 60 hours in a traveling case and when removed showed no signs of being wrinkled.

Southern Textile News, March 26, 1949, p. 46

#### COTTON'S NEW ADVANTAGES FOR FASHION FABRICS CITED

Hope Skillmann, fabric designer for many fashion leaders, said recently that novelty fabrics are likely to grow in importance as a natural reaction to the overabundance of plain cloths. "The new finishes, satin weaves, and the shimmering, silken look of the new cottons, the introduction of metallic threads, new finishes, and an effort at crease-resistance have contributed to giving cotton a new appearance," she said.

According to C. K. Everett, director of merchandising for the Cotton-Textile Institute, "New characteristics make this season's cotton dress goods outstanding. They include sparkling iridescent effects, rustling taffeta finishes, zephyr-like sheers, and sophisticated satinized patterns."

American Wool and Cotton Reporter, March 17, 1949, p. 21, 25

#### COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

##### GLASS FIBER: GLASS FIBERS' HEAD SEES PROFIT IN 1949

According to R. H. Barnard, Glass Fibers, Inc., his corporation lost about 81¢ a share on 700,000 shares last year, but he expects a better year in 1949. He also states: "The real measure of the year's accomplishments was the extent to which the company established itself in the glass fibers industry. Production of coned yarn increased about 400 percent during the year to a total of 822,000 pounds; an aggressive sales force was built, and a research organization set up. Glass fiber drawing units at the plant are running substantially higher than anticipated, resulting in installation of additional twisting units and cone winders."

Daily News Record, March 23, 1949, p. 8

##### GLASS FIBER: GLASS FABRICS OFFERED FOR APPAREL; OWENS-CORNING SAYS NOT SUITABLE

A concern in Los Angeles is offering "Soft-Flex" glass fabric men's and women's wear, saying it is non-abrasive and non-irritating. Price per yard is \$3 for widths up to 50 inches. However, the Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp., when asked, declared it did not recommend at this time any fabrics woven of Fiberglas yarns for any form of wearing apparel.

Daily News Record, March 28, 1949, p. 18

##### NYLON: USED IN OFF-THE-ROAD TIRES

Nylon cord is now being used in off-the-road tires produced by B. F. Goodrich Co., Akron, Ohio. The firm, in announcing the new tires, reported the nylon cord offers greater strength and durability than conventional rayon cord. The tires are used in such industries as open pit and strip mining, logging, and heavy construction work.

Daily News Record, April 4, 1949, p. 24

##### RAYON: AVISCO DEVELOPS PRE-SET MACHINE

A machine to pre-set rayon tricot fabrics and eliminate the expensive tacking and untacking of the selvages has been developed by American Viscose Corp.'s



textile research department. The machine is expected to provide added impetus to the tricot manufacturing industry by increasing the percentage of first-quality goods and the acceptance of tricot fabrics by the cutting trade. It results in straight course lines, control of stability of acetate rayon tricot, improved hand, and the knitting of much longer lots, which may in turn be dyed continuously. The machine is expected to process 2,500 linear yards of acetate rayon an hour.

Journal of Commerce, March 24, 1949, p. 12

#### RAYON: INDUSTRIAL RAYON WILL HOLD OUTPUT AT CURRENT LEVEL

According to Hayden B. Kline, of Industrial Rayon Company, there has not been any material decline in demand for the company's continuous process textile yarns or tire rayon product, and the company is not contemplating curtailment of production.

Journal of Commerce, March 31, 1949, p. 12.

#### RAYON: CELANESE OPENS PLANT IN MEXICO

A new multi-million-dollar plant, known as Viscosa Mexicana, was officially opened recently by the Celanese Corporation in the State of Michoacan, in Mexico. George Kohn, manager of the new plant, says that 6 million pounds of viscose yarn and staple will be produced annually. The yarn from this plant will be sold in Mexico; and as soon as that market is taken care of, it will be exported to both Central and South America.

American Wool and Cotton Reporter, March 31, 1949, p. 50

#### RAYON: AMERICAN VISCOSE WILL SPEND LARGE SUMS ON REPAIRS AND RENEWALS

According to Dr. Frank H. Reichel, of American Viscose Corp., large expenditures for major repairs and renewals, in addition to the \$45 million spent for these purposes in the last two years, must be made by his company. Plants and equipment have been operated at maximum capacity for nearly 10 years with consequent deterioration and obsolescence, which could not be arrested because of the war economy.. He further states, "The rayon industry in the next decade may not expand at the same rate as in the last, but it is sure to be marked by substantial advances in manufacturing methods and processes."

Southern Textile News, April 9, 1949, p. 2

#### RAYON: DUPONT SHUTS DOWN ACETATE STAPLE PLANT

DuPont was shutting down its acetate staple plant completely in April. The industry's current output of staple is at 60 percent of capacity.

Journal of Commerce, March 25, 1949, p. 14

#### RAYON: PRODUCERS TO CUT EXPORT PRICE

U. S. rayon producers usually sell for export at about 10 percent above domestic prices. Currently, domestic rayon weavers, with large stocks on hand, are selling their excess yarn to brokers at prices under the domestic level. This yarn is being exported <sup>for</sup> as much as 5 cents per pound under the producers' export quotations. Rayon yarn producers, faced with competition from other countries for Central and South American markets, are considering cutting their export price by as much as 5 or 6 percent. U. S. producers, however, are against any cut in domestic prices, pointing to the uselessness of a price cut when no resumption of grey goods activity has been noted despite all the slashes made in rayon cloth prices.

Journal of Commerce, March 24, 1949, p. 1



FIBER V: DUPONT'S NEW FIBER HELD SUPERIOR TO ORLON, NYLON

Fiber V, DuPont Corp.'s latest synthetic fiber discovery, is claimed to be superior to both nylon and Orlon in many properties, but is being kept under wraps until further developmental work has been completed. The DuPont Corp. declines to comment on its properties or composition, or to disclose when the new product will be ready for introduction to the trade and public. Recent tests and experimental weaving, however, have shown the new fiber to excel DuPont's other synthetic yarns for specific end uses.

Journal of Commerce, April 5, 1949, p. 16

ORLON: DUPLAN EXPERIMENTING WITH ORLON

The experimental weaving of Orlon is being carried on at the Hazelton, Pa. plant of Duplan Corporation. Use is being confined to obvious industrial products because there is no commercial production of the fiber at the present time. These products include pneumatic filter cloth, acid-proof work clothing, hosiery, dye nets, and sail cloth. Orlon may be used later in liquid filter cloths, where acid-resistant material is needed, and in fumigating tents, awnings, auto tops and flags. At present, it is being used in natural color only.

American Wool & Cotton Reporter, April 7, 1949, p. 49

ORLON: NEW PLANT BEING ERECTED; POSSIBLE USES OF FIBER CITED

A new plant will be erected in Lugoff, S. C., for the manufacture of Orlon, DuPont's new synthetic textile fiber. This plant will be the first in a chain of DuPont's units to be constructed for the manufacture of this fiber. There are strong possibilities that Orlon can be used for window curtains and shades, rainwear, umbrella fabric, outdoor jackets, sports clothing, dress shirts, woven lingerie, and tricot fabric.

Journal of Commerce, April 4, 1949, p. 2A

VICARA: USES LISTED; PROCESSED ON COTTON, WOOL, AND TOP-TO-TOW SYSTEMS

According to Grace R. Wildemuth of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corp., Vicara will be used primarily in women's dress goods and suitings, men's suitings, sport clothes, infant's wear, knit goods, hosiery, upholstery, and novelty fabrics. She said Vicara has been processed on the cotton and woolen system and also on the top-to-tow machines, with the following results:

Cotton system - When processed on cotton machinery, both the conventional and long draft systems have been used. Better yarns have been obtained on long draft machinery than on conventional machinery due to a more workable staple length of 2 to 2-1/2 inches as compared to 1 to 1-1/8 inch. . Blends have been made with cotton, viscose, acetate, and nylon in both weaving and knitting yarns. Yarns as fine as 50s have been spun, but a decrease in spinning efficiency has been noticed when the yarn count is finer than 36s.

Woolen system - Blends with wool, rayon, and nylon have been processed on the woolen system. No difficulty has been met in mixing, carding, or spinning. Yarns have been both frame and mule spun. The finest yarn made was 7 run.

Tow-to-top system - Very fine even yarns have been made by breaking the tow and drafting it in 3 to 5 subsequent drawings. These yarns have consisted of 100 percent Vicara, and blends with wool, viscose, and nylon. Single 30s, cotton count, have been made.

Journal of Commerce, April 7, 1949, p. 13



# VICARA: PRICE REDUCED

The price of Vicara protein-base staple for all deniers and lengths has been reduced to 83.2¢ per pound. The former price of this staple, made by the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corp., was \$1 per pound.

Rayon Organon, April 1949, p. 50

## WOOL: CONSUMPTION ABOUT SAME IN PAST TWO YEARS

Total consumption of shorn and pulled wool was about the same in 1947 as in 1948, but apparel wool consumption declined from 526 million pounds to 485 million pounds, and carpet wool increased from 172 million pounds to 208 million pounds for the same years.

Table 5.- Consumption of apparel 1/ and carpet 2/ wool; scoured basis, United States, 1947-1948

	Quantities		Percent of total consumption	
	1947 3/	1948 3/	1947 3/	1948 3/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent
TOTAL.....	698,232	693,094	100.0	100.0
Woolen.....	353,980	366,847	50.7	52.9
Worsted.....	344,252	326,247	49.3	47.1
APPAREL 1/.....	525,900	485,213	75.3	70.0
Woolen.....	189,555	165,793	27.1	23.9
Worsted.....	336,345	319,420	48.2	46.1
CARPET 2/.....	172,332	207,881	24.7	30.0
Woolen.....	164,425	201,054	23.6	29.0
Worsted.....	7,907	6,827	1.1	1.0

1/ Apparel class shorn and pulled wool. Does not include consumption on "cotton and other" systems. Includes domestic and foreign duty-paid wool.

2/ Carpet class shorn and pulled wool.

3/ Aggregate consumption for 53 weeks, 1947; 52 weeks, 1948.

From Facts for Industry, "Wool Manufactures," Bureau of the Census, December 1948.

## MOHAIR: 1948 CONSUMPTION LOWEST IN TEN YEARS

In 1948, mohair consumption totaled 9.5 million pounds, compared to 14.9 million pounds in 1947; 19.4 million pounds in 1946; and 18.2 million pounds in 1945. Since the war's end, consumption of mohair has declined on both the woolen and worsted systems.

Table 6.- Consumption of mohair on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, in the United States, 1939 and 1945-48

Year	Woolen system	Worsted system (tops)	Total 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1939	4.6	13.6	18.2
1945	5.4	7.8	13.2
1946	6.7	12.7	19.4
1947	3.1	11.8	14.9
1948	1.4	8.1	9.5

1/ Does not include floor coverings as separate data were not available for these years.

From Facts for Industry Series "Wool Manufactures," Bureau of the Census, and "Mohair Report," P.M.A., Livestock Branch, U.S.D.A., June 1948.

## SILK: INTERNATIONAL SILK BUREAU RECOMMENDS NICKEL LEVY TO FINANCE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION

Ariste Potton, president of International Silk Bureau, is recommending to allied occupation authorities in Japan that a 5-cent-per-pound levy on raw silk be



imposed, to be paid by the purchaser, to finance the Bureau's proposed promotional and research work. The National Federation of Textiles is about to join the International Silk Bureau, it was learned.

Daily News Record, March 28, 1949, p. 2

#### RAMIE: NEW METHOD OF DEGUMMING RAMIE FOUND

A new degumming method for ramie fibers has been developed by the Shanghai Textile Corp. (an English firm) and is said to be very successful. The process is a bacterial one followed by a treatment with caustic soda to hydrolyze the remaining pectin and a scouring process to bring out its whiteness. A treatment with a hydrocarbon emulsion to soften the fibers completes the process. Yields of ramie yarn up to 33 to 35 percent of the weight of the "gum" fiber have been obtained.

Textile Manufacturer, Jan. 1949, p. 38

#### KENAF: PRODUCED ON PILOT PLANT SCALE IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE

According to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. D. A. kenaf can be used as an effective substitute for jute, principally in hooked rugs, carpeting, twines, burlap bags, electric cables, and oakum. In the Western Hemisphere, kenaf is grown on a small scale in Cuba and San Salvador, and has been found to be fully competitive to jute fibers in yield, cost, and strength. Its seeds yield an oil comparable to cottonseed oil. The yield in Cuba may be expected to be about a ton of kenaf fiber per acre each year. One commercial grower in Cuba harvested nearly 100 acres of kenaf in 1948 and sold the raw fiber to a manufacturer in the United States. Other growers in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Guatemala are expressing interest in kenaf, and other manufacturers in the United States are experimenting with it. Machinery for seeding, harvesting, and binding the kenaf and for extracting the fiber has been developed and is being further improved. Good quality yarns, fabric, and bags have been produced in the United States from mechanically-extracted fiber. Kenaf bags have shown up favorably in competition with jute bags. When drop tests were made with bags of similar weight fabric, loaded with raw sugar, the jute bags ruptured when dropped from a height of 11 feet to a hard floor, whereas the kenaf bags did not rupture when dropped repeatedly from a height of 15 feet.

Press release, Feb. 24, 1949, Office of  
Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. D. A.

#### TEXTILE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

##### SPRING MILLS CONSTRUCTING NEW PILOT MILL AND RESEARCH LAB

According to Col. Elliot Springs, president of Springs Mills, construction has begun on their new pilot mill and research laboratory at Fort Mill, S. C. All cotton from the Springs Mills' seven plants in three South Carolina counties will be tested for strength, waste, and diameter at the new pilot mill. All fabrics will be checked and double checked for strength, appearance, and character.

Southern Textile News, April 2, 1949, p. 2

##### U. S. RUBBER BUILDS TEXTILE LABORATORY

U. S. Rubber is building a new \$250,000 laboratory for textile research, adjoining its textile mill at Winnsboro, S. C., which will consolidate and expand research and development work at Winnsboro and Hogansville, Ga. S. H. Sherman will be in charge.

Journal of Commerce, March 24, 1949, p. 12



## OILSEEDS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

### **BABASSU NUTS: CRACKED BY MECHANIZED METHOD**

A new machine promises to do the work of 50 men in cracking the babassu nut in Brazil. It will turn out 80 percent whole kernels, compared with only 20 percent whole kernels when the nuts are cracked by hand. The cost of husk cracking by this machine is \$300 a ton. It is very important that kernels be whole because producing areas are far from processing plants and damaged kernels deteriorate rapidly. Brazil produced an average of 46,000 tons of babassu nuts during the period of 1935-39, the average oil content being 60 to 70 percent.

Chemurgic Digest, March 1949, p. 17.

### **CAKE AND MEAL: LARGE SUPPLIES OF OILSEED CAKE AND MEAL AVAILABLE FOR CURRENT FEEDING SEASON**

Combined production of the 5 principal oilseed cakes and meals—soybean, cottonseed, linseed, peanut, and copra—during the 1948-49 season, ending September 30, is expected to total around 7.5 million tons, or about 10 percent larger than the 1947-48 record. Between 6.5 and 7 million tons will go into livestock feeding in this country. The quantity exported is expected to be about as large as in any of the past 20 years. To a large extent, the increased production of oilseed cake and meal has been responsible for the rise in protein feed supplies since pre-war years. Production of many other protein feeds also has expanded, but in smaller amounts.

The Feed Situation, Bureau of Agricultural Economics,  
U. S. D. A., March 1949, p. 16

### **FATS AND OILS: DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF FATS AND OILS SHOWS INCREASE**

Production of fats and oils from domestic materials in 1948 amounted to 10.2 billion pounds, 270 million greater than in 1947 and exceeded only in 1943 and 1944. Together with imports, new supplies were sufficient to provide for a domestic consumption of 10.4 billion pounds, equal to that of the previous year, but otherwise the highest for any year since 1941. Stocks were increased from 1.2 billion pounds on January 1, 1948, to 1.6 billion at the close of the year. Compared with 1947, consumption of the edible fats and oils was higher by more than 100 million pounds. Utilization of drying oils also was greater, but combined use of the soap fats was nearly 200 million pounds less. Per capita use of all fats amounted to 68 pounds, 1 pound less than in 1947 and 2 pounds under the 1937-41 average. Use of inedible fats amounted to 26 pounds per capita in 1948, as against 27 pounds in the preceding year and 24 pounds before the war. Average consumption of edible fats and oils was 42 pounds, about the same as in 1947, although still 4 pounds below the prewar average.

Industry Report, Fats and Oils, Bureau of the Census,  
U. S. D. C., March 1949, p. 1

### **FATS AND OILS: PRICES LOWEST SINCE OPA CEILINGS**

Prices of domestic edible vegetable oils fell 1.5 to 2 cents per pound from February to March. Crude cottonseed oil (S.E. Mills) in March averaged 11.5 cents per pound, the lowest since 1941. Declines on other fats were relatively small. Coconut oil, crude, Pacific Coast, at 17.5 cents per pound (including an allowance of 3 cents per pound for the tax on first domestic processing) remained high in relation to other vegetable oils and soap fats.

Demand and Price Situation, Bureau of  
Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A., March 1949, p. 20



## OILS AND MEALS PRICES CONTINUE DECLINE

Table 7.- Prices of vegetable oils and meals

	April 1949	March 1949 11/	February 1949	April 1948	September 1946
	Cents per pound				
<b>OILS 1/</b>	<b>April 18 :</b>				
Cottonseed oil.....	10.8	11.4	13.1	29.2	12.5
Peanut oil.....	12.5	13.7	16.0	29.1	13.0
Soybean oil.....	10.4	10.8	12.3	24.5	11.8
Corn oil.....	11.0	11.8	13.7	28.1	12.8
Coconut oil 2/.....	14.0	14.6	16.8	27.0	11.1
Linseed oil 3/.....	28.8	28.8	28.8	29.0	17.8
Tung oil 4/.....	20.5	21.6	22.0	25.7	39.0
	Dollars per ton				
<b>MEALS 5/</b>	<b>April 16 :</b>				
Cottonseed meal 6/.....	55.50	56.75	58.50	80.55	62.75
Peanut meal 7/.....	61.00	62.50	67.50	85.25	67.25
Soybean meal 8/.....	67.50	67.40	65.80	86.20	66.00
Coconut meal 9/.....	59.50	67.33	70.37	83.60	59.70
Linseed meal 10/.....	59.50	64.90	70.50	72.10	59.25

1/ Crude, tanks, f.o.b. mills except noted. From Oil Paint and Drug Reporter (daily quotations) and from Fats and Oils Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).

2/ Crude, tanks, carlots, Pacific Coast.

3/ Raw, drums, carlots, New York.

4/ Drums, carlots, New York.

5/ Bagged carlots, as given in Feedstuffs (daily quotation) and Feed Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).

6/ 41 percent protein, Memphis      10/ 32 percent protein, Minneapolis, prior to May 1947, 34 percent protein after that date.

7/ 45 percent protein, S. E. Mills.

8/ 41 percent protein, Chicago.

9/ 19 percent protein, Los Angeles.      11/ Preliminary.

## PEANUTS: MILL PRODUCTION OF EDIBLE PEANUTS INCREASES; VISIBLE SUPPLY DECLINES

Mill production of edible grade shelled peanuts, 747 million pounds, during the 1947-48 season was 29 million pounds larger than for the previous season. The visible supply of all peanuts (farmers' stock equivalent basis) held in commercial positions on August 31, 1948, totaled 173 million pounds, or 22 million pounds smaller than for the previous August and the smallest season-end supplies since 1941-42. Of the total edible grades of peanuts, 19 percent was used for peanut candy, 24 percent for salted peanuts, 56 percent for peanut butter, and 1 percent for other products.

Peanuts Stocks and Processing, BAE, April 1948, p. 1

## RICE: NEW USES SOUGHT FOR RICE HULLS

Total rice hulls for the nation amount annually to about 300,000 tons, most of which are destroyed by burning near the mills for want of better method of disposition. Rice hulls have been used as an ingredient of cement building blocks. Research is now under way seeking uses for rice hulls in wallboard, linoleum, plywood, glues, plastics of certain types, lightweight building blocks, fertilizer, sound-proofing and insulating materials, and as a source of pure cellulose (30 percent of its weight) in making rayon fibers or glucose by alkali digestion.

Chemurgic Digest, February 1949, p. 12.



SESAME: SESAME AND OKRA SEED PLANTINGS URGED FOR 1949

Plantings of sesame and okraseed in cotton growing states is being urged for the purpose of finding out more about what these crops would do in different localities and under different conditions. Sesame is a standard oilseed crop in many countries where labor costs permit harvesting by hand. Present research on non-shattering sesame varieties indicates that it could be mechanically harvested in this country. Okraseed possesses oil and protein meal of quality comparable to cottonseed. It can be grown with the same machinery and methods that are used for cotton, plus the ordinary grain combine for harvesting. Yields are from 800 to 1,000 pounds of seed per acre.

The Cotton Gin and Oil Mill Press, February 19, 1949, p.A-2

L I N T E R S   A N D   C E L L U L O S E

NO CHANGE IN LINTERS PULP AND WOOD PULP PRICES

Cellulose prices remained unchanged during the month of March.

Table 8.-- Average annual price of purified linters and dissolving wood pulp, 1946-47 and monthly quotations November-December 1948 and January-March 1949

(Cents per pound)					
	Purified linters 1/	Standard viscose grade	Wood pulp 2/ High-tenacity: viscose grade	Acetate & cupra grade	
1946.....	9.50	5.60	5.85	6.15	
1947.....	16.30	7.03	7.44	8.04	
1948, November.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	
1948, December.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	
1949, January.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	
1949, February.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	
1949, March.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50	

1/ Weighted averages, 1946-47. On 7 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. pulp plant. Average freight to users is 0.5 percent per pound. Prices supplied by a producer.

2/ Average of average monthly prices, 1946-47. Compiled from Rayon Organon and from letters to us from producer. Wood pulp prices are on a 10 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. domestic producing mill, full freight and 3 percent transportation tax allowed, December 1, 1947, on; freight equalized with that Atlantic or Gulf port carrying lowest backhaul rate to destination plus 3 percent back haul charges, prior to December 1.

COTTON LINTERS CONSUMPTION SHOWS INCREASE

Consumption of linters pulp in the rayon industry during 1948 reached 104,500 tons, which is equivalent to 464,000 bales of linters. This amount represented 19 percent of the total pulp used compared with 17 percent in 1947 and the recent 5-year average of 22 percent. The sharp increase in rayon production has enlarged the use of cotton linters pulp, although the proportion of linters pulp used, in relation to wood pulp, has tended to decrease in recent years. In 1948, the trend away from linters was halted, as the production of high tenacity rayon



yarn increased sharply. Other factors contributing to the increase in linters' use during 1948 were (1) a larger proportion of rayon made by acetate process, (2) an adequate domestic supply of chemical linters, and (3) a more favorable relationship between prices for wood pulp and cotton linters pulp.

Weekly Cotton Linters Review, April 15, 1949

# LINTERS PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY FOR FIRST HALF OF SEASON

Linters production during the first half of this season consisted of 243,600 bales of first cuts, 748,900 second cuts, and 63,400 mill run. Expressed as percentages of total production in this period, these figures are 23.1, 70.9, and 6 percent, respectively. In the corresponding six-month period last season, production comprised 23.9 percent first cuts, 68.2 percent second cuts, and 7.9 percent mill run. The proportion of first cuts for the current season is smaller than in the past three seasons and slightly below the pre-war (1935-39) average of 24 percent. The proportion of second cuts this season is larger than those of the preceding three seasons and about one-third larger than the 1935-39 average of 52.1 percent. The proportion of mill runs this season is much smaller than in recent seasons and only one-fourth as large as the prewar average of 23.9 percent.

Daily Mill Stock Reporter, April 8, 1949, p.12

# LINTERS PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS INCREASE; PRICES DECLINE

During 1948, linters production was somewhat higher than any year since 1940. Linters consumption during the same period was 1,241.3 thousand bales, of which 57.1 percent was used by the bleachery trade and 42.9 percent in other industries. Linters stocks rose from around 439 thousand bales at the end of the war to 609 thousand bales in 1948, but it was still below the 1940 figure. Linters prices for No. 2 and No. 4 grade have dropped substantially since 1947. (Table 9).

Table 9.- Cotton linters: Production, consumption by industries, stocks, and prices, United States, 1940-49

Calendar year	Production 1/	Consumption				Stocks 4/	Price per pound 1/	
		Total consumption 2/	Quantity bleached 4/	Other in- dustries 4/			No. 2 grade	No. 4 grade
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales		Cents	Cents
1940.....	1,055.5	1,116.3	3/	3/	799		4.96	3.87
1945.....	1,209.5	1,281.5	3/	3/	451		7.25	5.11
1946.....	969.1	1,037.9	3/	3/	439		8.93	6.56
1947.....	1,133.5	1,055.7	595.1	460.6	476		11.01	8.57
1948.....	1,446.7	1,241.3	709.1	532.2	609		9.04	6.54
1949, Jan...	187.5	123.0	80.6	42.4	672		7.99	4.60
1949, Feb...	159.4	119.0	75.6	43.4	668		7.66	4.15
1949, Mar...	3/	134.1	83.9	50.2	3/		7.64 5/	4.09 5/

1/ From Production and Marketing Administration, Cotton Branch, Weekly Cotton Linters Review, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

2/ From Facts for Industry, Cotton and Linters, Bureau of the Census.

3/ Data not available.

4/ Total stocks in consuming establishments, public storage and warehouses, and at oil mills. Stocks at end of years and months. From Facts for Industry, Cotton and Linters, Bureau of the Census.

5/ Preliminary.



#### DISSOLVING PULP STOCKS' RISE REFLECTS POOR RAYON MARKET

Wood cellulose inventories at the end of February were 72 percent above those of the same month in 1948, reflecting the weakness of the rayon yarn market at this time. Pulp stocks on hand at the end of February amounted to 11,921 tons compared to 6,868 tons a year earlier and 8,501 tons at the end of January. Domestic production in February dropped 1,568 tons from the January level of 37,899 tons, but increased 5,825 tons over the 30,516 ton output a year earlier. Production for the first two months of 1949 rose 15 percent or almost 10,000 tons over that of the first two months of the previous year. Imports of rayon pulp dropped 3 percent from the first two months of 1948 to the first two months of this year, a further reflection of the poor condition of the rayon yarn market.

Journal of Commerce, April 1, 1949, p. 14

#### EXPANDED PINE GUM PLANT TO BE LARGEST IN WORLD

Expansion and modernization of the Glidden Company's Naval Stores plant at Valdosta, Ga., will make it the largest pine gum producing plant in the world. The Valdosta plant will be capable of processing more than 150,000 barrels of pine gum a year and will be the only plant in the country equipped to store sufficient pine gum through the non-producing season to permit steady operation of the gum turpentine and rosin production throughout the year.

Chemurgic Digest, February 1949, p.16.



